



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

Office of the Archbishop

August 26, 2012

Dear friends in Reedsport,

In March 2011, the Archdiocese first received a report from Carolee Horning that she was involved in an inappropriate personal relationship with Father Edward Altstock which began when she was under 18 years of age. The relationship progressed to include sexual behavior. Father Altstock was pastor of this parish from 1984 to 1986.

Father Altstock was a friend of the Horning family and took unfair advantage of the high regard in which the family held him. He was a trusted pastor and betrayed that trust. Once again, I express my deep regret and sorrow to Ms. Horning, and now apologize also to her family and anyone in this faith community who was injured by Father Altstock.

We cannot undo the past. On my behalf, however, those who assist me in these matters responded promptly to Ms. Horning's report in ways that would facilitate her healing. Our safe environment coordinator, Cathy Shannon, met with Ms. Horning. On hearing her story, we offered to provide professional counseling for Ms. Horning and have been doing so. Ms. Shannon also offered Ms. Horning pastoral assistance. When I learned of this, I offered Ms. Horning my apology and sincere regret for what happened and assured her that I would meet with her, if she wished. Ms. Horning has not yet done so, but my offer remains open. When Ms. Horning later filed a lawsuit against the Archdiocese, we promoted its early settlement through mediation so that Ms. Horning could promptly put the court case behind her.

Along with these efforts and this apology come my sincere hope and prayer for the healing of Ms. Horning and all who may have been injured by the actions of Father Altstock or any priest of this Archdiocese.

May the God of peace and healing bless you all.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ John G. Vlazny

Most Rev. John G. Vlazny
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon